UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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CAO, PHUONG THAO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

		Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary		10/810,766	KRUSE ET AL.
		Examiner	Art Unit
		Phuong-Thao Cao	2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>26 December 2006</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,4-18 and 20-23* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1, 4-18 and 20-23* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is in response to Amendment filed on 12/26/2006.

2.   Claims 1 and 18 have been amended, claims 2, 3 and 19 have been canceled, and claims

21-23 have been added. Currently, claims 1, 4-18 and 20-23 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-18 and 20-23 have been considered but

are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the
> subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5.   Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as

the invention.

Regarding claim 18, it is unclear to what "it" (line 9) is referred. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.   Claims 1, 4-18 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Thompson et al. (US Patent No 6,668,253).

As to claim 1, Thompson et al. teach:

"A computer system that includes components stored on a tangible medium" (see Abstract), the

components comprising:

"a uniform interface configured to receive a generalized request from a report object and,

based upon information included in the generalized request, access data from a general ledger

database and return the accessed data to the report object" (see [column 2, lines 17-20], [column

5, lines 44-55], [column 11, lines 30-40], [column 25, lines 23-33], [column 26, lines 22-55] and

[column 31, lines 35-65] wherein request for a report from the financial consolidation application

is equivalent to Applicant's "generalized request", and the transformation and staging server acts

as a uniform interface as claimed),

"wherein at least one staging table having a standardized structure which is independent of a structure of the general ledger database, is utilized by the uniform interface to store at least a portion of the accessed data" (see [column 5, lines 50-56] wherein the transformation and staging server includes staging table and [column 3, lines 19-22] and [column 25, lines 22-67] for loading Financial Consolidation Database wherein Financial Consolidation Database can be consider as staging database which is loaded and consolidated with data form General Ledger database to create reports through the financial consolidate application; also see [column 26, lines 23-65]).

"wherein the uniform interface is further configured to access the data from the general ledger database by translating the generalized request into a specific query which, upon execution, populates the at least one staging table with the accessed data" (see [column 31, lines 30-50]) for translating a user request into specific query to access requested data from a database and see [column 25, lines 25-40] and [column 27, lines 32-40] for loading staging or temporary table with consolidated financial information from data accessed from the General Ledger database).

"wherein the uniform interface is further configured to query the at least one staging table to retrieve the accessed data and to return the accessed data to the report object after execution of the specific query that populates the at least one staging table" (see [column 3, lines 12-25], [column 26, lines 54-60], [column 27, lines 20-25] and [column 32, lines 1-7]).

As to claim 4, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the at least one staging table is an account code table" (see [column 25, lines 44-47] for Account Tables).

As to claim 5, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein at least one staging table is an account balance staging table" (see [column 25, lines 60-65] for Financial Account Balance Table).

As to claim 6, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the at least one staging table is a column filter staging table" (see [column 11, lines 9-12] for a list of predefined query filters which is equivalent to Applicant's "column filter staging table").

As to claim 7, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the generalized request includes at least one natural account is translated into at least one account code, which is stored in an account balance staging table" (see Fig. 25A for account sequence which is equivalent to Applicant's "account code").

As to claim 8, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 7 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the specific query, into which the generalized request is translated by the uniform interface, comprises a single sequential query language (SQL) statement that joins the account staging table with a balance table of the general ledger database, such that balance information for an entire report column can be retrieved by execution of the single SQL statement" (see [column 31, lines 35-60]).

As to claim 9, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 8 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the balance information comprises current balance amounts for each account code in the account staging table" (see [column 25, lines 60-65] wherein each of GL accounts is equivalent to Applicant's "account code" and account balances is equivalent to Applicant's "balance amounts", and Fig. 25C for balance amount item).

As to claim 10, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 8 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the balance information comprises year-to-date balance amounts for each account code in the account staging table" (see [column 30-35 and 60-65] wherein each of GL accounts is equivalent to Applicant's "account code" and account balances is equivalent to Applicant's "balance amounts", and Fig. 25C for EOY beginning balance and EOY ending balance which is equivalent to Applicant's "year-to-date balance").

As to claim 11, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 8 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the generalized request further comprises account filter criteria, and wherein a WHERE clause of the single SQL statement is configured to include the account filter criteria" (see [column 10, lines 1-15 and 40-45] and [column 26, lines 30-40 for the function of filtering information including financial information).

As to claim 12, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the generalized request includes at least one natural account and account filter criteria, and wherein, with the help of the uniform interface, the at least one natural account is

translated into at least one·account code, which is stored in an account balance staging table, and wherein account codes that match the account filter criteria are stored in a column filter staging table" (see Fig. 25A for account sequence which is equivalent to Applicant's "account code", and see [column 11, lines 9-15] and [column 10, lines 1-15] for filtering information and see [column 25, lines 20-60] and Fig. 25A for account number which is equivalent to Applicant's "natural account" and account sequence which is equivalent to Applicant's "account code").

As to claim 13, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 12 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the specific query, into which the generalized request is translated by the uniform interface, comprises a single sequential query language (SQL) statement that joins the account staging table with the column filter staging table and with a balance table of the general ledger database, such that balance information for an entire report column can be retrieved by execution of the single SQL statement" (see [column 26, lines 30-45] and [column 31, lines 35-45] for ability to combine the financial information which is equivalent to Applicant's "joins").

As to claim 14, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 13 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the balance information comprises current balance amounts for each account code in the account staging table" (see [column 25, lines 30-35 and 60-65] wherein each of GL

accounts is equivalent to <u>Applicant</u>'s "account code" and account balances is equivalent to

<u>Applicant</u>'s "balance amounts", and Fig. 25C for balance amount item).

As to claim 15, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim

13 and is similarly rejected including the following:

<u>Thompson et al.</u> teaches:

"wherein the balance information comprises year-to-date balance amounts for each

account code in the account staging table" (see [column 30-35 and 60-65] wherein each of GL

accounts is equivalent to <u>Applicant</u>'s "account code" and account balances is equivalent to

<u>Applicant</u>'s "balance amounts", and Fig. 25C for EOY beginning balance and EOY ending

balance which is equivalent to <u>Applicant</u>'s "year-to-date balance").

As to claim 16, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

<u>Thompson et al.</u> teaches:

"wherein the at least one staging table is a temporary table" (see [column 25, lines 15-17]

wherein a Summary Temporary Table is a temporary staging table).

As to claim 17, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

<u>Thompson et al.</u> teaches:

"wherein the at least one staging table is a permanent table" (see [column 25, lines 17-22]

wherein a Summary (permanent) Table is a permanent staging table).

As to claim 18, Thompson et al. teach:

"A computer implemented method of retrieving data, from a general ledger database, to satisfy a

generalized request from a report object" (see [column 25, lines 20-30] and [column 26, lines 40-

45] wherein each report is equivalent to Applicant's "report object"), comprising:

"receiving the generalized request from the report object" (see [column 31, lines 35-40]

wherein request for information is equivalent to Applicant's "generalized request");

"accessing, based on information included in the generalized request, data from the

general ledger database" (see [column 25, lines 20-30], [column 26, lines 40-45] and [column 31,

lines 35-40] for General Ledger information and each Financial report is equivalent to

Applicant's "report object"),

"utilizing at least one staging table, having a standardized structure which is independent

of a structure of the general ledger database, to store at least a portion of the accessed data on a

tangible medium before it is returned to the report object from the staging table" (see [column

27, lines 22-25] for summary (financial) temporary tables (as staging table) storing consolidated

financial information; also see [column 2, lines 17-20] and [column 3, lines 19-22] wherein

financial database used by the financial consolidation application which contains consolidated

and summarized financial information from General Ledger database can be considered as

staging database including staging tables).

As to claim 20, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim

18 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the at least one staging table is a temporary table" (see [column 25, lines 15-17]

wherein a Summary Temporary Table is a temporary staging table).

As to claim 21, Thompson et al. teaches:

"A computer system that includes components stored on a tangible medium" (see Abstract), the

components comprising:

"a uniform interface configured to receive a generalized request from a report object and,

based upon information included in the generalized request, access data from at least one staging

table that stores information from a single general ledger database on a tangible medium," (see

[column 2, lines 17-20], [column 5, lines 44-55], [column 11, lines 30-40], [column 25, lines 23-

33], [column 26, lines 22-55] and [column 31, lines 35-65] wherein request for a report from the

financial consolidation application is equivalent to Applicant's "generalized request", and the

transformation and staging server acts as a uniform interface as claimed; also see [column 2,

lines 17-20] and [column 3, lines 19-22] wherein financial database used by the financial

consolidation application which contains consolidated and summarized financial information

from General Ledger database can be considered as staging database including staging tables

[column 27, lines 20-25]),

"wherein the at least one staging table has a standardized structure which is independent

of a structure of the general ledger database" (see [column 26, lines 30-40] and [column 27, lines

20-25] wherein summary (financial) temporary tables contained consolidated financial

information must have a structure different from the structure of the general ledger database).

As to claim 22, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim

21 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the at least one staging table is a permanent staging table" (see [column 25,

lines 17-22] wherein a Summary (permanent) Table is a permanent staging table).

As to claim 23, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim

22 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Thompson et al. teaches:

"wherein the permanent staging table is updated by one of SQL statements and database

functions, which are activated each time the general ledger database is updated" (see [column 15,

lines 25-30], [column 17, lines 23-30] and [column 28, lines 40]).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong-Thao Cao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2735. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Mon - Fri).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PTC

March 29, 2007

CHARLES RONES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER